

Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 H-02 /013 W

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P 050100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8123

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CASC, MX

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL/DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWING TEAM

REF: MEXICO'S 4844

1. CONGEN AND EMBASSY CONOFF CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF PRISONS MALO CAMACHO LAST NIGHT AND REQUESTED HIS ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING APPARENT IMPASSE OVER USE OF TAPE RECORDERS IN PRISON INTERVIEWS AT LECUMBERRI AND SANTA MARTHA, POINTING OUT THAT USE OF RECORDER WAS QUICKEST AND MOST ACCURATE WAY TO TAPE DEPOSITIONS PROVIDED FOR BY CONSULAR CONVENTION. CONGEN ALSO NOTED THAT PROJECT HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL AND RABASA.

2. MALO CAMACHO RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROJECT AND WISHED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO US AND THAT MEXICAN OFFICIALS HAD NOTHING TO HIDE IN CONNECTION WITH PRISONER TREATMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT PRISON HEADS HAVE CONSIDERABLE INDEPENDENCE. HE REQUESTED THAT APPROACH BE MADE IN WRITING. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN CONTINUING TAPING AT LOS REYES.

3. LETTER FROM CONGEN WAS DELIVERED TO MALO CAMACHO THIS MORNING. HE CALLED CONGEN LATE MORNING AND STATED HE WAS PREPARED TO CALL PRISON HEADS TO TRY TO RESOLVE

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THE MATTER BUT "SUGGESTED" THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE

MATTERS IF CONSULAR OFFICERS WOULD LEAVE WITH PRISON OFFICIALS A COPY OF THE PRISONER'S STATEMENTS OR OF THE TAPES. CONGEN RESPONDED THAT THIS SUGGESTION CREATED DIFFICULTIES BUT BEFORE ANYTHING FURTHER COULD BE SAID THE CONNECTION WAS BROKEN. IMMEDIATE CALL TO MALO CAMACHO BROUGHT RESPONSE THAT HE HAD LEFT THE BUILDING. HE HAS NOT YET RETURNED CALL. WE ARE ATTEMPTING AGAIN TO REACH HIM.

4. IN VIEW FOREGOING, TEAM DID NOT VISIT LECUMBERRI TODAY TO PURSUE THE PROJECT. SINGLE CONOFF VISITED PRISON TO TAKE CARE OF OTHER PRISONER MATTERS AND TO INDICATE CONTINUING INTEREST.

5. TAPING OF INTERVIEWS AT LOS REYES (5 OF THE LIST) APPARENTLY PROCEEDING WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED LATE TODAY.

6. DAVID JULIAN OF STARKE STAFF DEPARTED FOR LOS ANGELES THIS AFTERNOON. WILKE OF STARKE STAFF PROBABLY DEPARTING TOMORROW OR FRIDAY. PLANS OF SCHOLAERT OF SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF INDEFINITE. JOVA

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